



New Kol Nidrei Service Liturgy

Our clergy and ritual committee are excited to announce CSZ's participation in the piloting of the new draft machzor developed by Reform Judaism's Central Conference of American Rabbis. Chosen along with a number of congregations nationwide, we will test drive the first draft of the Kol Nidrei service this September, giving us the opportunity to direct and influence the progress of this revision and spiritually re-envision our year's largest service.

Thirty years ago, the Ritual Committee, members, and friends of our congregation prepared our CSZ Yom Kippur machzor "Therefore Choose Life! Its liturgy and readings have served us well over the years, guiding us through reflection, repentance and renewal on our holiest day. Especially during our Kol Nidrei evening service, we have found comfort in its familiar words and readings.

This new machzor contains many of the qualities we strove to bring to our Siddur Shaar Zahav. It is an accessible book, with all Hebrew fully translated and transliterated. Like our own siddur, it maintains gender neutrality

in divine representation while updating English readings and meditations to a more contemporary voice. The machzor reflects the guidance of LGBT rabbis including Yoel Kahn, Lisa Edwards, and Michael Latz, who served on the editorial committee for the project. Both English and Hebrew typeface, side notes and layout comfortably guide the worshipper through the service.

While it is difficult to choose one example encompassing all the enhancements to the machzor, we include "Opening the Ark, Opening Ourselves", from *Mishkan HaNefesh*, CCAR. Imagine our full sanctuary praying together, inspired by language and liturgy, joined together in song, using a beautiful new prayer book. "Opening the Ark, Opening Ourselves", as the machzor describes, will allow our congregation to pursue an inspiring sacred path of possibility and change during the Kol Nidrei service. Combined with our clergy, lay leaders, and traditional CSZ machzorim for our other services, this year's High Holidays will renew our bonds as a *Kehilla Kedushah*, a holy congregation, as well as a community at the forefront of advancing new liturgy.

Opening the Ark; Opening Ourselves

Yom Kippur: the Jewish people's Festival of the Soul and Kol Nidrei its sacred portal – a night of deep emotions, a night, as the psalmist wrote, to "rejoice with trembling."

We rejoice at the sound of Kol Nidrei – rhythmic words of release from vows, oaths, and promises to God we fail to keep.

We tremble at the melody. Music of spiritual amazement, It fills us with awe as we stand before God and Torah.

We rejoice that we stand together, strengthened by community in this hour of shared weakness and humility.

We tremble – for tonight we confess our flaws, admit our imperfection, and acknowledge a Power far beyond our understanding.

We rejoice that we commit ourselves to great endeavors because we feel so deeply and think so nobly.

We tremble – for we find that our ideals are far greater than our ability; our promises surpass our might.

We rejoice in the freedom that is Kol Nidrei's true gift: The freedom to begin a new year without fear of failure, to aspire to be God's image in the world.

We tremble because we are mortal; we rejoice in our gratitude for life.

We rejoice with trembling, and enter Kol Nidrei to face our humanity.

Being a "Missionary" in Cuba



ritual items.

But Jews aren't "missionaries" and neither are LGBTQ activists. As a lesbian, I'm especially sensitive to anyone thinking I'm out to recruit. Such impressions have led to homophobic-driven campaigns from time immemorial.

Traveling as a missionary, I carry a suitcase packed full with Steve Elman's tzedakah: 700+ toothbrushes, one copy of *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav*, and several more pounds of Jewish texts to help us make meaning of our experiences on the journey. I've brought my havdalah set, my traveling tallit, and my rabbi's manual, just in case. I arrive on this mission to bring Jews the goods and discover that it's really the non-Jewish LGBTQ activists who need our support, our experience, our hope, and our goods—even our *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav*.

Thanks to our member Nancy Wecker, we were able to meet with Norma Rita Guillard Limonta, a feminist and lesbian activist. She in turn helped us arrange our meeting with Cenesex (the government-run Center for Sexual Education) and meet with a group of younger Afro Cuban lesbians and gay activists in a private home. It was these encounters that helped me to feel like I was indeed on a religious mission, sharing my experience, strength and hope.

Are gays and lesbians oppressed in Cuba? A 1999 US Department of Homeland Security report said: "Freedom for Cuban gays and lesbians continues to be limited [and] reinforced by decades of government persecution."

It is sadly ironic, that a government institution of a nation with appallingly high incidences of hate-crimes makes this allegation. It was only in June 2003 that the US Supreme Court struck down Texas's discriminatory same-sex sodomy law and invalidated statutes in the other 14 states, which included sodomy as a crime.

In comparison, Cuba had removed all anti-sodomy laws by 1973. By the early 1990s, no Cuban laws mentioned

homosexuality. Every second night on Cuba's state television channel, ads made by Cenesex are broadcast in favor of sexual diversity. The ads show same-sex couples going about their daily life and end with the message: "Diversity is natural."

Cuba, a country rife with contradictions, appears more advanced than America in some significant aspirations regarding access to healthcare and education, housing and food. While it's evident that poverty and racism make life challenging for some more than others, we were told multiple times that Cuba has no anti-Semitism. As American Jews, it seems to me that the one meaningful act of tzedakah/justice making that we can engage in is actively lobbying for an end to the economic embargo.

After having used our *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav* for Shabbat, for daily prayers and at the cemetery in Santa Clara, in Havana, in Centifuego, and in one to one conversations with congregants, I wanted to find it a home. Excitedly, I approached Brian Wilson, the handsome twenty-something youth group director, at the El Patronato synagogue wanting to show him our treasure. Pointing out the Blessing for a First Kiss, I began suggesting how he might imagine using it. He kindly told me, "Rabbi, I've used it already!" Indeed, much to my delight and surprise, Brian showed me the purple spine on his bookshelf of "go to" resources, given to the community by a prior visitor. Ha! Imagine the thrill of knowing that we are making a difference in places we are not even aware of yet.

So, I decided that my new non-Jewish friends, some of whom had never met Jews, let alone a working lesbian rabbi, nor a community of Jewish men and women, would treasure our book of praise and thanksgiving and perhaps be inspired to learn more about Judaism as well. Mission accomplished. I genuinely felt like I fulfilled my purpose.

I hope in years ahead, Sha'ar Zahav will return to Cuba and continue our work and our friendships. If you are interested in such travels, let me know. I'm an eager missionary waiting in the wings for more meaningful work.

Finally, I'd like to make a pitch for you to consider bringing along a copy of our prayer book on

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Reflections on my First Year as President

James Carlson President



THANK YOU for the honor of serving our trailblazing congregation. The inevitable headaches that come with the job are regularly offset by moments of great pride and joy.

I felt great pride in May, when I spoke to a group of Bay Area Israelis. The conversation became interesting as we began reading members' contributions in Sid-dur Sha'ar Zahav. In the letter sent after the visit, the group leader complimented the congregation for showing the "different ways to practice Judaism in the 21st century."

There is joy in seeing participants of the Cuba trip attend our Shavuot service together because the travel experience deepened their connection to Sha'ar Zahav and to each other.

There is joy in listening to Bar/Bat Mitzvah students talk about how growing up at Sha'ar Zahav has made a difference in their young lives.

There is joy when I see a Caregivers' Support Group provide meaningful support to someone who has suffered a loss.

However, the presidency is not an endless series of joyous moments. There are challenges in serving as the President of any synagogue. And there are some very particular challenges to serving as the President of CSZ in 2013.

Two Ships

The question I'm asked most often is a variant on "What keeps you up at night?" I have come to realize that my answer to the question is "Two Ships": Membership and Leadership.

Membership. Our membership numbers have declined. The current membership is 311 households, which is 19 less than a year ago, and 50 less than 10 years ago. Yes, statistics will show that overall synagogue affiliation has declined in America. But we don't have to resign ourselves to being a statistic. Our community is too vital, and we need to regain the momentum that 50 new households could yield.

A key priority of our Strategic Plan is to increase membership. The Membership Task Force, headed by Ruth Bernstein, has developed creative strategies for outreach in many directions to people who are likely to be interested in membership. However, membership outreach shouldn't be confined to the Task Force. We need *you* to bring your friends to experience our Shabbat services. Tell your co-workers with young children about the amazing curriculum at Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer.

Another side of the membership issue is retaining our current members. For that aspect, the Connections Task Force, headed by Barbara Cymrot has looked at the opportunities for stronger and deeper connections between members.

One result of the task force's work is the creation of an Annual Avodah commitment. The underlying concept is that volunteering for service will reinforce a member's connection to the congregation and build community among those people who are volunteering together. Your own Avodah commitment form will be enclosed in the upcoming membership renewal mailing.

The other "Ship" is Leadership. While the nominating committee presented a slate of high quality candidates for approval at the annual meeting, it was not easy to recruit members to make this important contribution to our community.

In this next year, we will be focusing our efforts to energize new leaders. Sha'ar Zahav's Past Presidents have agreed to lead a newly envisioned series of seminars designed to provide the tools and success factors for our future committee chairs, Va'ad members and officers. The series will be facilitated by Diana Buchbinder and Paul Cohen. When you receive an invitation to join the group, please say yes. Or better yet, don't wait for the call. If you are interested in playing a role in this congregation's leadership, contact Diana or Paul or me.

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Honoring Batya Kalis

At Shabbat services on June 7, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav honored long-time member Batya Kalis on the occasion of her 90th birthday and the 20th anniversary of her bat mitzvah.

Batya was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, part of a large community of Orthodox Jews that had emigrated from a small shtetl outside of Bialystok. Having lost both parents by the time she was eleven years old, she went to live with her married older sister and was raised thereafter in the Reform tradition. She attended college at the University of Kansas, the only Jewish woman on a campus of more than 5,000 students; after graduation, she joined the Women's Army Corps and was sta-

tioned at hospital ports on the East and West coasts, including the Bay Area. Batya remained in San Francisco after the war and earned her Master's and Ph.D. in Psychology at UC Berkeley. She served on the clinical faculty at UCSF, both in the Department of Psychiatry and in the Community Mental Health Training Program, where she became the first woman in the UCSF Department of Psychiatry to be promoted to the rank of clinical professor.

In early 1981, Batya accompanied a friend to services at Sha'ar Zahav. She remembers, "Paul Cohen was on the bima that evening. At the end of the Aleinu prayer he read in English 'and make the lives of all women and men a blessing to humanity.' That was the first

time I had ever heard women included in a prayer. I knew at that moment that this was the place for me and joined immediately." By the time she joined, she felt that men as well as women were interested in being more egalitarian. She served on the editorial committee for the congregation's cookbook, *Out of Our Kitchen Closets*, served as treasurer of the congregation and served a short term on the Va'ad. She also served for many years on the newsletter, ritual and leadership development committees.

Joining the synagogue at the beginning of the AIDS disaster, before anyone really knew the scope of what was happening, she became a member of

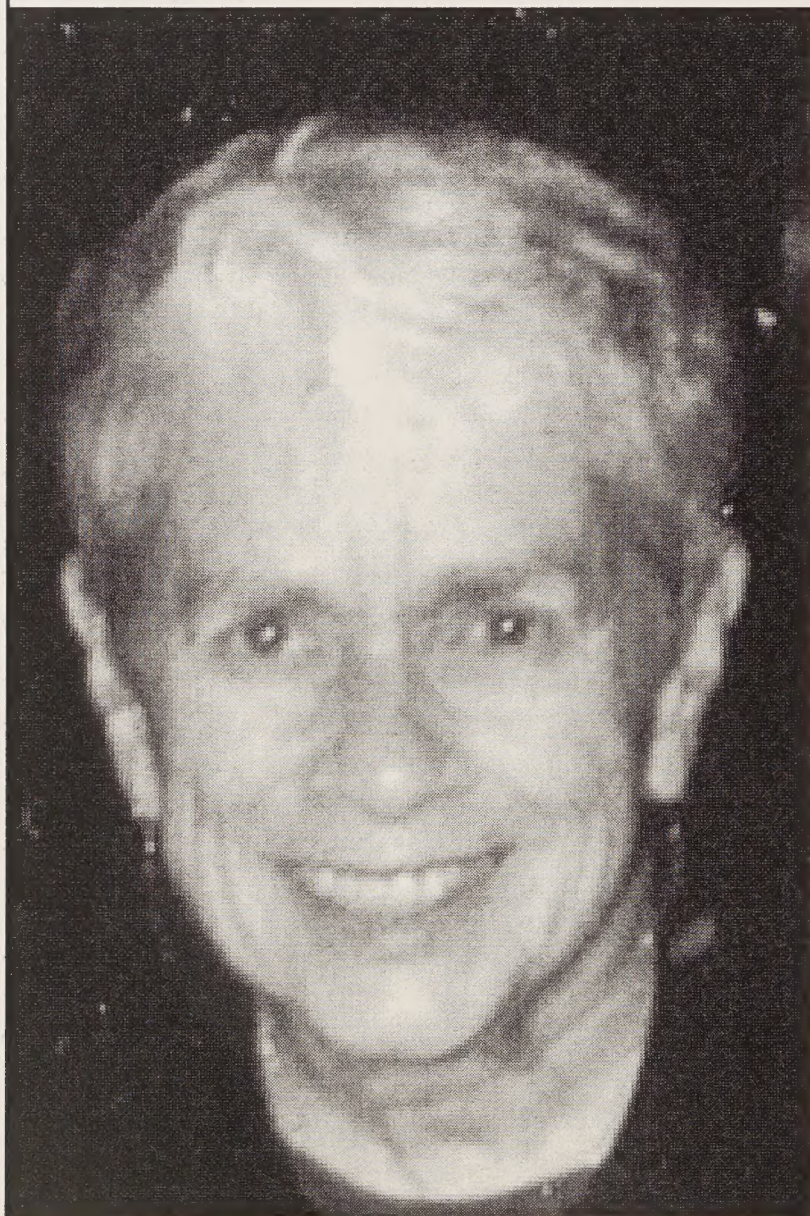
the Bikkur Cholim committee. "Caring for our members, and people in the larger community, became the biggest job the congregation had to do. People worked hard; this tragedy that struck our community had a huge role in bringing the community together and making it a functioning congregation."

Batya attended the Reform movement's national convention in LA in 1985 with CSZ President Mike Rankin; their successful mission was to urge the Reform movement to revise offensive language on homosexuality that was printed in the 1st edition of the Plaut Torah commentary. She also was a co-chair, with Marion Trentman, of the planning committee for the Taste of Honey Conference held in 1987 at Camp Swig, which was attended by more than 150 women.

Batya's bat mitzvah project, on the occasion of her 70th birthday, was to compile, with the help of Rabbi Yoel Kahn, an inclusive egalitarian Saturday morning siddur, *Siddur Simchat Shabbat*, the congregation's first Saturday morning prayer book. A large-print edition was later published with the assistance of the Kalis Inclusive Liturgy Fund, which was supported by friends and family in honor of her bat mitzvah. When she questioned one service leader's use of a Torah translation that used male pronouns exclusively, she remembers being told that, "after all, you can't make the whole Torah gender neutral." Saying to herself, "Why not!" Batya began doing just that, publishing *The Torah: A Gender-Neutral English Adaptation* in 1996.

Asked what she is most proud of, among her many accomplishments Batya points to the fact that her bat mitzvah inspired and encouraged our teacher Phyllis Mintzer, z"l to have her own adult bat mitzvah. Batya has also been moved by being invited to speak to classes at Beit Sefer and feeling that some of her early experiences resonated with the children.

"My CSZ family is a very important part of my life. I feel accepted with all my idiosyncrasies and have met amazing people."



Coming Full Circle

BY FLAVIO EPSTEIN

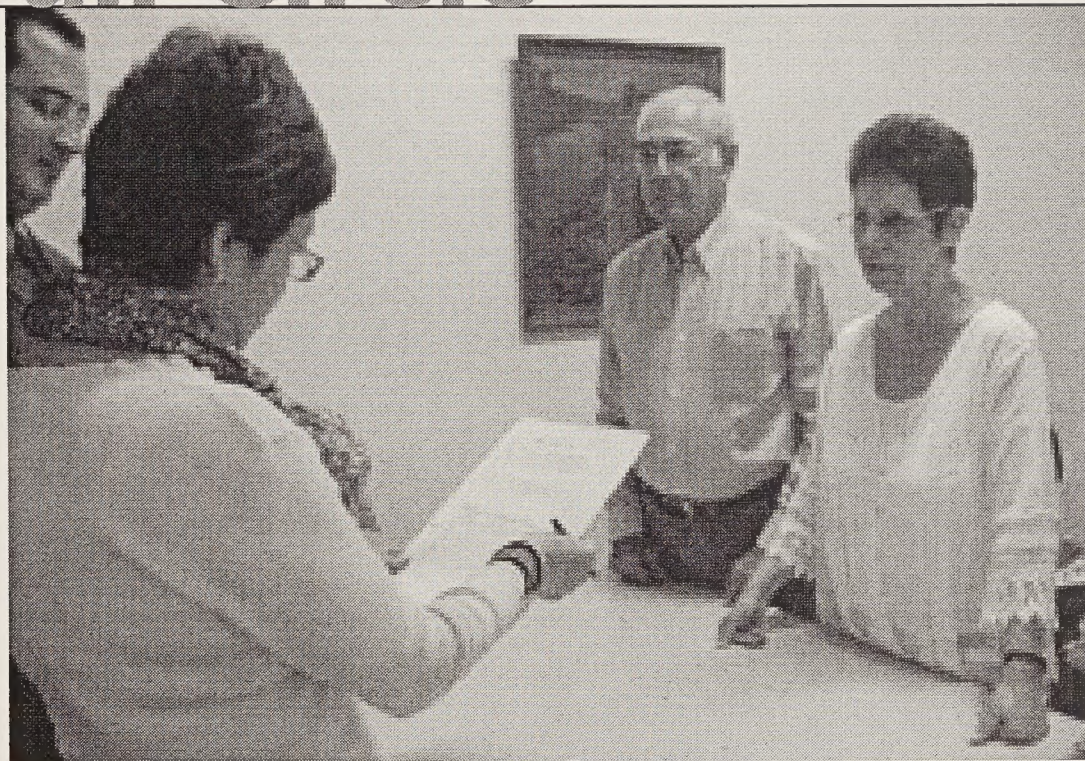
Fifteen years ago, it was hard for me to come out to my parents. My father could not say the word “gay” and my mother said that she planned to buy insurance that would cover the cost of transporting my body back to Brazil after I died of AIDS. It would be an understatement to say that there was misinformation in Brazil about sexual orientation—especially in my parents’ generation.

But on May 10, 2010, my parents came to our wedding at Sha’ar Zahav. It was a huge stretch for them. They had never seen a gay wedding. They did not know what to expect and they did not know how they would feel. My mother seemed to accept us, but my father made negative comments to one of our best friends. He seemed uncomfortable as we kissed and cut our cake. He was embarrassed when we danced together. The time, he said nothing to us and I appreciated that.

On April 19, 2012, our daughter Carina was born. I texted my parents a photo of Carina coming out of the birth canal. They texted us back and they were clearly excited. Since that time, we have Skyped every Sunday in order to give my parents the opportunity to experience Carina’s development.

We wanted Carina to have dual citizenship so I began to research Brazilian LGBT family law. Brazil embraced gay marriage in 2011—they refer to it as civil marriage. If we were married in Brazil, we could apply for recognition of Carina’s adoption in California. And since I am a Brazilian citizen, Carina could become a Brazilian citizen. Moreover, Brazil would recognize us a family.

I never expected my parents to do as much as they did to help us obtain our Brazilian marriage. In Brazil, a civil marriage can be carried out through power of attorney. In other words, both partners can designate someone to represent them. Those representatives can then go to the courthouse and be married on behalf of the partners without



the partners being present. When I explained this to my parents, my mother volunteered to represent Drew and my father volunteered to represent me. We also needed two witnesses so one of my mother’s lesbian friends and my sister-in-law stepped up.

I don’t have words to express how much I appreciated my parents’ love and acceptance. My family of origin has

come full circle. My parents not only resolved the issues of gay identity as well as family, they embraced it. One definition of “to come full circle” is “to return to the original position or state of affairs.” Unconditional love makes parenting relationships unique.

My parents “married” on our behalf on April 10, 2013. Drew and I are now newlyweds!

From Siddur Sha’ar Zahav

Marriage Equality Blessing by Rabbi Joseph Hample:

May all loving couples be remembered and inscribed in the Book of Marriage.

Bride and groom, or bride and bride, or groom and groom,

They shall ever praise Your Name.

May the Eternal bless their love, and may human rulers honor their covenants.

And every court shall be called a house of marriage for all couples.

May the One who blessed our ancestors—

Isaac and Rebecca, Ruth and Naomi, David and Jonathan

Bless all our families, and grant us health and happiness, prosperity and peace.

Blessed are You, Eternal, Creator of all families.

A CSZ Story from 2002



BY MICHAEL RICE

In the summer of 1975, I got a phone call from Gaynor Jacobson, then the executive director of HIAS. HIAS - the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society - was long established in New York, with worldwide programs. My father, James Rice, had preceded Gaynor as executive director, from 1955 to 1966.

Gaynor laid out that HIAS had a State Department contract to arrange sponsorships and resettlement of Vietnamese families who had fled after the fall of Saigon in April. HIAS had an office at the resettlement base at Camp Pendleton, the huge Marine Corps site in San Diego County. The HIAS field director needed to come back to New York, and was I interested in serving there for several months? He waved away my complete lack of social work experience, and flew me down to Camp Pendleton. Gloria Rosenbaum, the HIAS director, met with me, said I could do the work, and, again, responded to my lack of qualifications, with "You're Jim Rice's son. It's in your blood." A week later I began.

I learned what to do by relying on staff that had been there for months, mostly working seven-day weeks. I saw right away that Robin Sheiner and Tony Newman, a couple who had met in Israel, were the backbone of the work. Tony was a

bluff, red-haired Jewish guy from Cardiff, Wales. I spent most of my days on the phone to Jewish family agencies around the country (including JFCS here in San Francisco), asking/pleading for sponsorships for Vietnamese families.

Robin and Tony moved on and later split up. Robin is a social worker in LA. I lost track of Tony. He returned to Wales, became a professional social worker, married and raised his own family.

In the last month, Tony and I have reconnected by e-mail, because I found a file I had put away of papers and photographs from that

unforgettable work in 1975. I wrote to Tony about our life here, including our recent connection with Sha'ar Zahav. Tony then wrote back:

"And the strangest thing.... I have only been in the States a few times in the past 30 years, but I was in SF for a week in about 2002 - giving a paper at a conference in Oakland organized by Through the Looking Glass, a Berkeley based NGO that supports parents of disabled children in the Bay Area (this was the subject of my doctoral work). I generally find a shul when I'm away overseas on shabbat, not because I'm especially observant but because it's always an interesting experience. The nearest temple to my hotel in SF was Sha'ar Zahav. I went there on Friday night and it was a lovely experience - I'd emailed in advance to ask if it was OK to come. There was a greeter at the door who made me feel very welcome. The rabbi was away at the time - having a baby if my memory is correct - and the services were led by members of the congregation. A new and rather innovative siddur was being road tested. I remember speaking to a young gay man after the service and him telling me how he'd felt estranged from the Jewish community for years until he found Sha'ar Zahav. What a co-incidence."

Tony and his wife Verity expect to visit San Francisco in 2014. I plan to give them a CSZ siddur.

Shabbat Sweetness



AS OUR SCHOOL year draws to a close I am thinking of ways my students can continue to build their Jewish life, even when they are not in school. Religious school lasts only nine months out of the year, but the students' Jewish identity should be a constant. The depth and love for Jewish practice and ritual has to be cultivated by all the influences in their lives.

The best way to achieve this, I believe, is through home practice and community involvement. My hope is that the families at Beit Sefer will continue to share joyous Jewish moments with their children. One of the most meaningful and sacred components of Judaism in the home is the celebration of Shabbat.

Shabbat and the time I spent with my sister practicing a Shomer Shabbos (guarding the Sabbath) lifestyle has had the most profound influence on my Jewish identity. It is important to observe Shabbat to instill in our children important concepts: resting, reading and unplugging from the secular world for a day to be Jewish.

In his book *The Sabbath*, Abraham Joshua Heschel writes, "What is it that these epithets are trying to celebrate? It is time, of all phenomena the least tangible, the least material.

When we celebrate the Sabbath we adore precisely something we do not see".

It is so important to teach our youth the subtlety of deep ritual practice. I often tell our students that Judaism does not focus on holy space, but on holy time. The markers between the time that is mundane and sacred time are not elaborate, yet they are profound. This ability to shift into holy time can become a skill that can forever change a person's life.

Shabbat practice can be as simple as a Friday night dinner or giving up technology for twenty-four hours. It should include the blessings and involve the community that is central to Judaism. Make challah with your children, invite their friends over and enjoy time at a Sabbath dinner studying something that has meaning to your family.

May your summer be filled with many moments of Shabbos sweetness.

L'Shalom,
Rebecca

Introducing the B'nei Mitzvah

Harry Bernholz



Harry Bernholz will be a 7th grader at Chinese American International School this fall. Harry has attended Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer since kindergarten and will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on August 10, 2013. Harry has many interests, including music (both Chinese and Western), geography, foreign languages, traveling the world, and hanging out with his friends, family and pets. Harry's first *mitzvah/tikkun olam* project was a solo music fundraiser last October for the *Institute for War and Peace Reporting* in

honor of the Pakistani girls' education activist Malala Yousafzai, who learned to blog in their *Open Minds* program. Other *mitzvah* projects with his family, mentor, and Chavura included San Francisco's *Free Farmstand*, park clean-ups and new clothing donation for young people in supportive housing. Harry and his parents, Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleisher, would like to thank Harry's wonderful Bar Mitzvah team: his fabulous mentor, Laura Lowe; Hebrew tutor, Richard Sinkoff; and *drash* tutor Ora Prochovnick for all their support and wisdom.

Congregational Trip to Cuba



BY LAURA LOWE

On April 28 I became part of Sha'ar Zahav's first historic mission trip to Cuba. I went with the hope that I would gain some closeness to those members whom I've known peripherally for years. Cuba had never been at the top of my personal priority list, but the pull to be on a CSZ trip was so strong that I signed up.

I never knew anything about Jews in Cuba. I expected that our group of 28 would double the Jewish population for a week, but I was so wrong. Jews immigrated to Cuba in large numbers beginning in the 16th century, escaping the Inquisition in Spain. Jews from Turkey immigrated in the early 1900s to escape conscription into the military. Next the Polancos (Polish Jews) came to Cuba in the 1920s and 1930s, followed by European Jews during and after the Holocaust. Finally, American Jews immigrated to Cuba in the 1940s and '50s to take advantage of business opportunities. At one time there were

15,000 Jews in Cuba. After the revolution of 1959, most of the Jews left the country and today there are fewer than 1,500 Jews on the island. Cuba has welcomed Jews when other countries did not. Each Jewish group with whom we met made it clear that there is no anti-Semitism in Cuba.

We came to Cuba on a Mission trip. What does that mean for Jews? We were asked to bring donations for the Jewish community. The Cuban government makes sure that Cubans have the basics (food, education, housing, medical treatment). We brought the extras. It was stunning to discover what "extras" are in Cuba. From hundreds of toothbrushes to much needed prescription drugs, we carried hundreds of pounds of donations and much needed dollars.

We visited the Sephardic Community Center in Havana, home of a Holocaust exhibit. The Center feeds Jewish seniors, serves as a social center and a resource for general assistance. Many of the requested donations were designed to help seniors.

We also visited the main synagogue

of Havana, El Patronato. It has a pharmacy to supply the community with scarce medications. El Patronato also serves as Havana's Jewish religious center, for Shabbat and holiday services. We enjoyed Friday night services there and it felt like home to me. The services were lay led with many familiar tunes. After services we joined about 100 Jews for a chicken dinner. El Patronato serves Friday night meals every week after services. The meals are funded by the financial donations from Jewish groups like ours.

We left Havana for a few days and went to a beautiful beach town, Cienfuegos. I would have been surprised to find anything Jewish in the middle of what seemed like a small town and surrounding farming community. But there was a Jewish Community Center, a Jewish cemetery with a Holocaust memorial and our visit to the home of a woman named Rebecca.

Rebecca's story is the quintessential tale of Jewish survival. Rebecca's grandmother immigrated to Cuba from Turkey. Until Pope John Paul II visited



Cuba in 1998, religious practice of any kind was frowned upon, but Rebecca's grandmother had told her stories about Jewish holidays and practices. Like most Cubans the family was not observant from the early '60s until 1998.

When the Pope visited Cuba, Vivian (our guide) told us that the Cubans had to pinch themselves to believe that it was real. After the Pope's visit, Cubans and religious observances more accepted. Rebecca remembered her grandmother's stories and has revived the small Jewish community in Cienfeugos and the surrounding countryside. Rebecca holds Shabbat and holiday services in her home for about 23 local Jews.

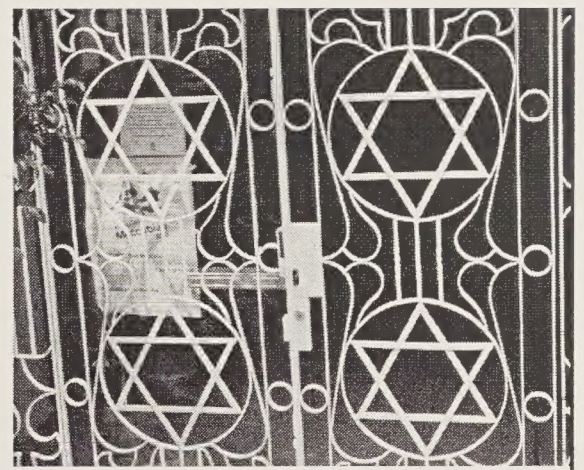
All Jews like Rebecca are able to secure exit visas to visit Israel. Rebecca is a Cuban Jew and Cuba is her home. She has finally been able to be observant. A large Star of David is a visible mark outside of her home. There is a mezuzah on the doorpost. Prayer books and hanukkah line the shelves. Rebecca loves her Judaism and while I was with her I felt intimately connected to my own Judaism, my synagogue and my community.

We also arranged to meet with the LGBT community and went to the Cuban Center for Sex Education (CENESEX). We did not get to see Mariela Castro (Raul Castro's daughter), the director of CENESEX, but met with one of their attorneys. CENESEX is a government department that is working to provide equality for the LGBT

community. We also met with members of Project Rainbow, a private LGBT organization.

From LGBT folks we were able to learn firsthand about the difficulties of living in Cuba. Housing issues are huge for LGBT couples. Most Cubans live with their families. They get their ration cards for food at their family home. Yet couples want to live together. The people that we met were cobbling together less than ideal homes.

Allowing time for fun was part of our mission trip too. We visited Trinidad, known for its arts and crafts, we visited



art galleries and the Cuban art museum. An a capella group sang for us and at one of our dinners the musicians played "Hava Negilah". Of course we couldn't resist dancing the Hora.

As the trip was winding down, we celebrated havdalah under a portico in Old Havana. Vivian joined our circle and felt the wonderfulness of our community. On our last day, we recited kaddish at the memorial to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

The trip exceeded all of my expectations. I've come away with the longing for increased intimacy with my fellow travelers and so much more. I developed new gratitude for my Jewish background. I fell in love with Cuba and Cubans. And my salsa dancing got a big boost from a lesson with the Salsa Six in the heart and heat of the birthplace of salsa: Cuba!

Being a "Missionary" in Cuba

(continued from page 2)



Rabbi Camille Angel and Nancy Wecker flank Lesbian activists.

your summer travels; discover its many usages and offers of gratitude and blessings daily as well as on Shabbat. Sing some of our songs. And then, find a good new home or house of worship to gift with our unique messages. Imagine what a difference it might

make in some small town in America. Who knows how far we can extend ourselves in the spirit of repair, *tikun olam*. May this be a fulfilling summer for you. I'll look forward to seeing you, whenever you're in town.

Camille Shira

Summer Dates

Friday, July 12 at 6 pm *East Bay Chavurah* Shabbat pot-luck and program
 Saturday, July 13 at 7pm the *Havdallah Chavurah* is co-hosting Poetry Shabbat at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
 Monday, July 15 at 7:30 pm, *Tisha B'Av* teaching in the sanctuary
 Saturday, August 3 at 10 am First *Shabbes* gathering of the *Meditation Chavurah*

Friday, August 9 at 7:30 pm Guest *Drash* by Rabbi Yael Levy, "Jewish Mindfulness and the Approaching Days of Awe"
 Saturday, August 10 at 5 pm *East Bay Chavurah Havdallah*
 Friday, August 16 at 7:30 pm *Shabbes Beat*

Rabbi Angel will be teaching: Preparing Ourselves for the *Yamim Noraim*, The Days of Awe with *Mussar* and Mindfulness Practice
 Thursday, August 15 at 7 pm *Hitlamdut*/Adopting the Stance of the Learner
 Thursday, August 29 at 7 pm *Anavah*/Humility

My First Year as President

(continued from page 3)

Thanks Again

I want to again thank you for the opportunity to serve this congregation. It is a

big job. I could not fulfill the responsibility alone, and I'm deeply indebted to the Va'ad members who serve as my collaborators and the clergy and staff who actualize our vision. We function well as a team. I am just as indebted to

the individual members—the Jews in the pews—who seek me out to share their ideas of how this sacred community can improve and grow. With that spirit of teamwork, I look forward to another year.

PRACTICE AREAS

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 Domestic Partner
 Dissolution
 Separation
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 Restraining Orders
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October 30 - November 9, 2013

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Co-sponsored by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, JCC Manhattan, Keshet, Nehirim, Beth Chayim Chadashim and Kol Ami

Hike in the desert, swim in the Dead Sea, visit the old city of Jerusalem, Yad Vashem, and the ruins of Bet She'an.

Engage with Israeli LGBT leaders and artists, build community, sing together, and celebrate Shabbat with new friends.

Savor the culture and nightlife of Tel Aviv, one of the leading gay cities of the world.

"I loved seeing and feeling Israel through the vector of gay life"
Michael (St. Louis, MO)

To register and for more details visit: www.awiderbridge.org/israel-2013

Registration deadline: August 15, 2013

Price: \$2700 (airfare not included)

An application for scholarships and subsidies is available on our website.

For more information or specific questions email josh@awiderbridge.org or call 415-987-5119

AIDS Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Jay Feinstein; Mark Feldman; Bobby Mackey; Tom Yazman; and Duff Kreitzberg.

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Allan Berenstein in honor of Cantor Sharon Bernstein.

Chai Building

Leslie Kane & Manuel Fishman

Chai Cantor

Robert Bernardo
Jonathan Funk
Laura Lowe

The Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in honor of the first year of James Carlson's Presidency.
in memory of Judy Davis.
in honor of Batya Kalis' 90th Birthday.

General Fund

Anonymous in memory of Elliot.
in honor of David Gellman and Alex Ingersoll.

Marianne Balin in honor of Judy Huerta's entrance into the Covenant.
Wayne Bender in loving memory of his dear friend Judy Woo.

Allan Berenstein in memory of his former wife Marsha Nohl.
in memory of Richard Inlander; Nanci Stern; Judy Macks; and Mirtha Beal.
in memory of Rosalie Lynette, Eileen Lynette's mother.

James Carlson in memory of his grandmother, Giovanna Tuzzolino.
in memory of Janice Thiemann, Kelly Thiemann's mother.

Marshall Gold

William Goldstein in memory of Juliette Giannini, mother of Avraham Giannini.
Sarita Groisser in honor of David Zinn
Noelle Herrnberger

Rose Katz in memory of her father, Marvin J. Katz.

Rabbi Michael Lezak in honor of Rabbi Camille Angel's teaching and Miki Goralsky's teaching.

Ron Lezell in memory of the yahrzeit of his mother, Sophie Lezell.

Alice Harron in memory of Evelyn

Slenker, Ron Edelman's sister.

Mark Mackler in honor of Allan Gold's "2/3 century birthday."

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in memory of Arthur Bluethenthal, father of Anne Bluethenthal and grandfather of Mina Rae Ostrow Bluethenthal.
in memory of Dean Drummond, brother of Ilana Drummond.
in memory of Juliette Giannini, mother of Dr. Avraham Giannini.
in memory of Janice Thiemann, Kelly Thiemann's mother.

Roberta Rosenthal

Susan Tubbesing

Raymond Weisberg in memory of Arthur Bluethenthal, father of Anne Bluethenthal and grandfather of Mina Rae Ostrow Bluethenthal.

High Holiday Pledges

Judith Blankman

Stephanie Godt & Ellen Novogrodsky

Alison & Vanessa Jacoby

Cynthia Navarro & Kathryn McHenry

High Holiday Sponsorship

Michael Chertok

Walter Leiss High Holiday Oneg Fund

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in honor of Walt Leiss.

Ron Lezell

Richard Meyerson

Sam Thal

Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund

Kelly Cytron and Judy Hogan in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rose Heath-Katz.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Ilana Drummond & Sharon Dulberg

Marc Lipschutz

Andy Schwartz & John Mark Eggerton in appreciation of Camille's bereavement support to Andy.

Rainbow Fund

Jessie Ap'neva & Nina Wouk

Marianne Balin in honor of Tony Harris.

Ruth Bernstein & Matthew Patchell

Helen Bruno & Kevin Stein

Diana Buchbinder & Jeane Redsecker

Patricia Caplan & Jonathan Simonoff

Philip Charney

Bernard Choden & Lois Scott in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Ellie Cohen & Miki Goralsky in honor of Ron Lezell and Rabbi Camille Shira Angel.

Ellen Cleary

Barbara Cymrot

Ilana Drummond & Sharon Dulberg

Lisa Finkelstein

Avraham Giannini

Stephanie Godt & Ellen Novogrodsky

Sara Gorr

Tony Harris

Judy Huerta in honor of seven wonderful years with her partner, Marjorie Hilsenrad.

Arnie Jackson

Erika Katske & Reuben Zellman

Lisa Katz

Nancy Levin

Ron Lezell

Marc Lipschutz in honor of Alex Ingersoll and Martin Tannenbaum.

Melissa & Steven Moss

Ellen Novogrodsky

Ann Ritzma & Elaine Porter

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz

Jane & Michael Rice

Beth Ross & Laura Trupin

Karen Schiller

Susan Schwartz

Eric Temple & Garry Schermann

Siddur Bookplate

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum in honor of Delia Anderson-Colson's Bat Mitzvah.
in appreciation of Wendy Brummer.

**April
5/6**

Bimah Flowers sponsored by **Ann Gorr** in honor of the bat mitzvah of her granddaughter, **Gabriella Odegaard**
 Saturday Kiddish sponsored by **Marilyn Schonthal & Barbara Mutnick** in honor of the bat mitzvah of their niece, **Gabriella Odegaard**

12/13

Bimah Flowers sponsored by the **Klaiman Family** in honor of the b'nei mitzvah of **Sydney, Liam & Johanna Klaiman**

Saturday Kiddush sponsored by the **Klaiman Family** in honor of the b'nei mitzvah of **Sydney, Liam & Johanna Klaiman**

19/20

Bimah Flowers sponsored by **Paula Fleisher** in memory of her mother, **Rikki Fleisher**, and in thanks for the support of the CSZ community over the past year
 Friday Oneg sponsored by **Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz** in honor of "Both of us finding someone to put up with each other for 30 years"

26/27

Friday Oneg & Bimah Flowers sponsored by **Alice Harron** in memory of her father, **Meyer Jacob Harron**

May

3/4

Bimah Flowers sponsored by **Jeffrey Lilly** in memory of his father, **Clyde Lilly**
 Friday Oneg sponsored by **Michael & Sarita Moss and Marilyn Foster** in honor of their new granddaughter, **Alma Belle Catherine Moss**

10/11

Bimah Flowers sponsored by **Jean Katz and Billye Heath** in honor of the bat mitzvah of their granddaughter, **Rose Patricia Heath Katz**

Saturday Oneg sponsored by **Lisa Katz & Sharon Heath** in honor of the bat mitzvah of their daughter, **Rose Patricia Heath Katz**

17/18

Bimah Flowers sponsored by **Ann Bauman & Kelly Thiemann** in honor of their 21st wedding anniversary

Friday Oneg cosponsored by **Ann Bauman & Kelly Thiemann**, and **Louise Fischer** in memory of her mother, **Iris Fischer**

24/25

Friday Night Live Pizza sponsored by **Alisa Gilden & Lisa Inman** in honor of **Alisa's** outgoing / **Vanessa Jacoby's** incoming duties as FNL coordinators, and in honor of the wonderful support given to the FNL program by CSZ staff and lay leadership as it is being planned for next year

Friday Oneg sponsored by **Richard Meyerson** in memory of his father, **Stanley Meyerson**

31/June 1

Friday Oneg sponsored by **Alice Harron** in gratitude for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and co-sponsored by the Cuba trip participants.
 Flowers sponsored by the Cuba trip participants.

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Our Legacy Community An Update

IRENE OGUS, CHAIR, OUR LEGACY COMMUNITY

CSZ has obtained the highest number of signed Letters of Intent of any other congregation in the Bay Area's Community Legacy Project.

We have - as of May 31st - 74 Letters - the names are shown below. This is a really wonderful show of commitment to our Community and we can be justifiably proud.

The amount of these bequests ranges from \$1,000-\$200,000 and many simply state a percentage of

assets - or show no figure at all. My best guess is that the total figure these represent could be between \$3,000,000 and \$5,000,000.

I am inviting many of our 'bequestors' to tell us why they made the decision to take this step and will be publishing their stories in the Forward. You have already read Ron Lezell's in the past November/December issue. In our September-October issue you will be able to read Avraham Giannini's beautiful story.

I hope these stories and your own commitment to the future security of our congregation will inspire you to

complete your own Letter of Intent. Please e-mail me at irene.ogus@gmail.com and I will send you the form.

Thank you to all of you who have taken this important step

Our Legacy Community

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Rabbi Camille Angel
Marianne Balin
Jesse (Shai) Begley
Dan Bellm & Rabbi Yoel Kahn
Wayne Bender
Ray Bernstein
Francisco Caravayo & Jonathan Strober
James Carlson
Michael Chertok
Daniel Chesir
Ellie Cohen & Michal Goralsky
Paul Cohen
Aaron Cooper & Eric Keitel
Rob Daroff
Steve Elman
Jonathan Funk
David Gellman
Avraham Giannini
Allan Gold
Joan Goldman
Alan Gordon

Sarita Groisser
Marjorie Hilsenrad
Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum
Lisa Inman & Alisa Gilden
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Rose Katz
Tom Lakritz
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Shoshana Levenberg
Nancy Levin
Deborah Levy
Ron Lezell
Jeffrey Lilly
Patricia Lin
Marc Lipschutz
Gerry Llamado
Laura Lowe
Eileen Lynette
Mark Mackler
Paul Margolis
Steve Mazer
Richard Meyerson
Jerry Nodiff
Irene Ogus

Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz
Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz
Andrew Ramer
Mike Rankin, M.D.
Gerald Rosenstein
Beth Ross & Laura Trupin
Sharyn Saslafsky
Karen Schiller
Andrew Schwartz
Arthur Slepian
William "Bill" Smith
Charles Spiegel
Howard Steiermann
Rob Tat
Susan Tubbesing
Deborah Udin
Dana Vinicoff
Larry Wexler
Gary Winter
Dennis R. Ybarra
Frank Yellin & Mark Showalter
Jonathan Zimman
Mike Zimmerman
Ami Zusman

Naches

Mazel Tov to

Melissa and Steven Moss on the April 4th birth of their daughter, Alma Belle Catherine Moss.

Bria Odegard on her bat mitzvah

Liam, Sydney and Johanna Klaiman on their b'nai mitzvah

Rose Heath Katz on her bat mitzvah

The congregation is responding to the health concerns many members have expressed, and has begun experimenting with passing baskets of cubed challah for the motzei blessing at Shabbat services. We will continue to have a whole challah on the bimah.

Condolences

Our condolences to

Ilana Drummond, Sharon Dulberg, Micha and Ella Rose Drummond-Dulberg on the loss of their brother, brother-in-law, and uncle, Dean Jeffrey Drummond.

Eric Zigas, Nancy Windesheim, Lisa and Parker Windesheim-Zigas on the death of their mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Irma Zigas.

Kelly Thiemann and Ann Bauman on the death of their mother and mother-in-law, Janice Elaine Thiemann.

Eileen Lynette and Char O'Neil on the death of their mother and mother-in-law, Rosalie Lynette.

Jessica Israel Cannon, Ali Cannon and Raffi Cannon on the death of their mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Harriet Cohen Tarkianen.

Member Yahrzeits

July

- 1 Rachel Mailman
- 4 Edwin Gabay
- 5 Matthew Rostoker
- 6 David Roy Custead
- 9 Alexander Louis Konski
- 17 Steven P. Berman
- 25 Seth Miller
- 30 Phillip Resnick

August

- 2 David H. Kotch
- 3 Hal Podgur
- 4 Jordan Berger
- 5 Ernie Weinstein
- 6 Jay Platt
- 7 Mark Landsberger
- 16 Peter Rosenfeld
- 18 Elliot Schneck
- 28 Jay Feinstein

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New location for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's High Holy Day Services



5774 High Holy Days with Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Please join us again for the High Holy Days:

Wednesday, September 4

Thursday, September 5

Friday, September 6

Friday, September 13

Saturday, September 14

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah, 2nd day (@ CSZ)

Erev Yom Kippur, Kol Nidre

Yom Kippur

Services will be held at
San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center
2850 19th Avenue (at Sloat)
San Francisco, CA 94132